

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS BETWEEN CIUDAD JUAREZ AND
EL PASO, TEXAS.

REFERENCE: CIUDAD JUAREZ A-18 OF JUNE 4.

1. BINATIONAL COMMITTEE (SEE PENULTIMATE PARA. OF REPAIR)
HELD MEETING JUNE 11 IN CIUDAD JUAREZ, ATTENDED BY MAYORS OF
BOTH CITIES AND REPORTING OFFICER, TO ATTEMPT FIND SOLUTION
TO TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS.

2. AS EXPECTED, JUAREZ MAYOR MARIO JAQUEZ PROPOSED A MUNICI-
PALLY-OWNED BUS SYSTEM BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES WHEREBY EACH
CITY WOULD OWN AND OPERATE ALIKE NUMBER OF BUSES AND COLLECT
THE REVENUE FROM THEM. WHILE NOT EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO
THIS PROPOSAL, EL PASO MAYOR HERVEY POINTED OUT EL PASO CITY
CHARTER WOULD HAVE TO BE AMENDED TO PERMIT OPERATION OF
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. HERVEY SAID HE COULD
FORESEE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM HAVING TWO COMPANIES OPERATING
ALONG SAME ROUTE. HE TOLD GATHERING THAT FORD MOTOR CO.
IS INTERESTED IN FORMING A BINATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
BETWEEN JUAREZ AND EL PASO, TO INCLUDE THE MONORAIL AND A
BUS SYSTEM, TO BE FINANCED THROUGH PRIVATE INVESTMENT. WITH
APPARENT THOUGHT OF PROMOTING TOURISM IN EL PASO, HERVEY
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RECOMMENDED SYSTEM DESIGNED TO TRANSPORT TOURISTS FROM SOON TO BE OPENED CAVALRY MUSEUM IN EL PASO TO CHAMIZAL NATIONAL MEMORIAL AND CONTINUING ON TO PRONAF AREA AND JUAREZ AND EL PASO DOWNTOWN AREAS. HERVEY SUGGESTED SUCH ROUTING WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH CITIES QUOTE BECAUSE WHAT BENEFITS EL PASO BENEFITS JUAREZ UNQUOTE. HERVEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT QUOTE WHAT THE MEXICAN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND IS THAT THE TOURIST IS AFRAID TO BRING HIS CAR INTO MEXICO UNQUOTE. HE CONCLUDED REMARKS BY SAYING QUOTE WE ARE NOW AT POINT OF WORKING TOWARD A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM OF MASS TRANSPORTATION. THE IDEA OF ONENESS TRANSCENDS ANY PETTY SITUATION WE MAY HAVE. WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE SOMETHING WHICH WILL ACCENTUATE THE SPIRIT OF THE CHAMIZAL TREATY UNQUOTE.

3. DR. GLENN PALMORE OF BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF A BINATIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY AS FIRST PRIORITY ITEM FOR THE COMMITTEE. THE AUTHORITY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAY TO DAY OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM AND WOULD BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE VEHICLE WHEREBY INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY.

4. ALSO DISCUSSED DURING MEETING WAS POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING OLD BRIDGE CROSSING AT YSLETA, TEXAS, WHICH CONNECTS WITH ZARAGOZA ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER, AND POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING NEW BRIDGES. EL PASO DIRECTOR OF PLANNING CALLED UPON JUAREZ REPRESENTATIVES FOR HELP IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF ENLARGING YSLETA BRIDGE, WHICH, HE STATED, MAY NOW BE DONE WITH LOCAL INSTEAD OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

5. AD HOC COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED FROM REPRESENTATIVES BOTH CITIES TO STUDY ALL RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED DURING MEETING AND TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING JUNE 25.

6. MEANWHILE, ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE LOOMING, WITH THE OPERATION OF OUTLAWED JUAREZ JITNEYS--AUTOMOBILES WHICH CARRY PASSENGERS ACROSS THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES FOR A FIXED CHARGE AND PICK UP PASSENGERS ON RETURN TRIP. THESE JITNEYS, WHICH BOTH CITIES AGREED TO ELIMINATE AT MEETING BETWEEN MAYORS HERVEY AND JAQUEZ UNCLASSIFIED

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AND LIC. RAMIRO COTA RAMIREZ, CHIHUAHUA GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE, ON MAY 31, ARE AGAIN OPENLY OPERATING ACROSS THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES. AGREEMENT CALLED FOR OPERATION OF AUTHORIZED TAXICABS ONLY. MAYOR HERVEY SAID IT WILL BE UP TO JUAREZ OR EL PASO TO STOP THE JITNEYS FROM OPERATING. THE DESPERATE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF JITNEY OPERATORS, WHO FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER ARE UNABLE TO BECOME OPERATORS OF TAXICABS,

MAY CREATE ANOTHER TENSE SITUATION BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES.
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